



# VICTORY TIMES

JUNE 1, 2023  
Volume 2 Issue 6



The Guardian  
The V Corps Newspaper

**U.S. Army**

**248 Years**

June 14, 1775

CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH  
THE SOUND OF FREEDOM

**FLAG DAY**

NORTHERN FRANCE 1944

# HONOR & HERITAGE

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Lt. Gen. John S. Kolasheski



Command Sgt. Maj. Raymond S. Harris

# A MESSAGE FROM V6 AND V7

Victory Team,

Happy Birthday, Soldiers!

June 14 marks 248 years of Army excellence. Our Army’s history of contributions to society and cultural change is an enduring fabric of America’s legacy. You all are contributing to that legacy daily by the work you are doing in this Corps.

This is our month to show our Army, our nation and our partners what V Corps brings to Europe. We’ve started with Saber Guardian that began on May 29th and we continue with the M3CPX that begins in just a few days. And while we have block leave right around the corner, these first couple weeks of June are going to be a grind.

We know these exercises make for long days that are very mentally and physically taxing. It can be challenging to juggle mission requirements and personal care, especially when you are dedicated to the mission. It is imperative you continue to take care of your health. Get sleep. Eat right. Get some exercise, even if it’s just getting up and walking around for a minute. Take care of yourself and watch out for your battles.

If you notice someone struggling and think they might be at risk for suicide, trust your instincts and talk to them. Mention the warning signs they are exhibiting, stay calm and let them know you are there to help. Be prepared to help! If you don’t know how to help, point them in the direction of the Chaplain or the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, which you can find at the bottom of this letter. We are in this together.

It Will Be Done.  
Victory.

RAYMOND S. HARRIS  
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## VICTORY TIMES

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U.S. Coast Guard photo by Chief Photographer's Mate (CPHoM) Robert F. Sargent

*“No matter how bad things got, no matter how anxious the staff became, the commander had to preserve optimism in himself and in his command. Without confidence, enthusaism and optimism in the command, victory is scarcely obtainable.”*

- STEPHEN E. AMBROSE, QUOTE FROM D-DAY, JUNE 6, 1944: THE BATTLE FOR THE NORMANDY BEACHES

## V CORPS & BLOODY OMAHA: HISTORY'S LARGEST SEABORNE INVASION

U.S. Army story by Spc. Devin Klecan  
V Corps Public Affairs

June 6th, 1944 [04:15 A.M.] – An early morning haze surrounds V Corps Soldiers as they await to embark upon the challenge of a lifetime; penetrating Adolf Hitler’s fortress: Europe in Normandy, France.

After months of hard and realistic training, V Corps Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division and the 29th Infantry Division stormed Omaha Beach, marking a strategic turning point during World War II.

The time was 6:30 a.m. when the largest amphibious assault in history began. Before waves of Victory Corps Soldiers stormed the beach of Omaha, Maj. Gen. Leonard T. Gerow took command of V Corps in July, 1943.

One of his contentious decisions, as pointed out by some under his command, was that Gerow had “a tendency in combat to move his headquarters too close to the front.” A habit that would sometimes put Victory Corps’ command post right on the front line, closer to combat than any of the division command posts.

Historian Russell Weigley cited that Gerow, a man who had no combat experience before D-Day, was “the epitome of a meticulous, painstaking staff officer.”

Though some Army leaders considered giving him command of V Corps a risk, Gerow proved to be a steady, competent and tireless combat leader. Leading up

to the invasion, Gerow ensured the corps trained tirelessly, as he himself honed his own skills as an operational planner.

With the help of his capable plans section, Gerow was able to test and contribute multiple plans to Operation OVERLORD. Gerow’s leadership proved to be vital during the invasion of Omaha Beach, one of five target beach heads.

During the first initial assault, 34,142 soldiers and 3,306 vehicles stormed the beach, meeting heavy resistance. Gerow maintained his composure when the success of the invasion was in doubt. Gerow trusted the commanding officers below him to lead the action.

Bad weather was the least of the command’s worries. The invasion of Omaha Beach did not go as planned. Almost three-fourths of the assault vehicles and artillery munitions capsized or foundered. Nearly all of the M4 Sherman tanks launched nearly 6,000 yards out at sea failed to reach the shore.

Many of the landing crafts carrying soldiers were unable to reach the shore, forcing the men to struggle by foot. Two to three hundred yards of an open and mined beach separated them from the heavily fortified German defenses.

Heavy losses began almost immediately after landing. Expecting to only receive resistance from a single German army regiment, the troops were instead

confronted by major elements of the German 352nd Infantry Division.

As German defenses pinned down American troops on the beach, a slow realization occurred among the allies; virtually every unit had landed in the wrong place. Their carefully prepared assault plans were now worthless. At first impression, the landing was a disaster.

As Gerow was anxious on board the command ship the U.S.S. Ancon, waiting for information, he finally received word that the Corps’ attack made its way inland.

Omaha turned out to be the most tenaciously defended of the invasion beaches and the site of the bloodiest fighting. Multiple Victory Soldiers of many ranks earned the Medal of Honor for their bravery that day. The Soldiers did what they could, and fought for their lives and the lives of their comrades.

By mid-day, valor and leadership at all levels resolved the dangerous situation. The bunkers and machine gun positions were silenced, the beach was secured and the corps headquarters was established on French soil.

The victory over Germany came at a sobering cost, with V Corps taking approximately 2,500 casualties. The corps’ mission was far from over, but the closing of the gap on Hitler’s Europe was beginning. By June 11, V Corps reached its D-Day objectives.

Source: U.S. Army V Corps history archives



# UNIT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION'S MCP SHOWCASED AT THE NATO BALTIC COMMANDER'S CONFERENCE



U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Joshua Zayas 4th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office

U.S. Army story by Capt. Brian Sutherland  
4th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office

SZCZECIN, Poland – The 4th Infantry Division (4th Inf. Div.), referred to as the ‘Ivy Division’, conducted a mobile command post (MCP) demonstration from March 25 – 29, 2023, at the Multinational Corps Northeast (MNC-NE) Headquarters with NATO partners and Allies.

The presentation of the division’s mobile command post at the Baltic Commander’s Conference was an opportunity to increase human, technical and procedural interoperability between the U.S. and its European allies.

“The big benefit to activities like the commander’s conference is enriched by the fact that we can look at one example, a great example, of how to commit to command and control of divisions and corps,” explained Lt. Gen. Jürgen-Joachim

von Sandrart, commander of MNC-NE. “We exchange experiences, and we exchange perceptions and expectations. We grow closer together and we gain an environment of trust and credibility.”

The Madrid Summit Declaration, issued by NATO Heads of State and Government last July, was a pivotal moment in the strengthening of alliances in Europe and a growth in shared military cooperation. This command post demonstration and commander’s conference is a lasting effect of the summit, and “events and activities like this allow us to realize the objectives from Madrid,” said Maj. Gen. David Hodne, the 4th Inf. Div. commanding general. “We will demonstrate that the Multinational Division Northeast is prepared to defend its Baltic neighbors in the future.”

The 4th Inf. Div. has a long-standing history of partnerships and training with NATO

countries in the Baltics. The Ivy Division was one of the first U.S. divisions to establish a presence in Poland. “I’m grateful to have our American brothers-in-arms and sisters-in-arms, shoulder-to-shoulder being present here but also being present all across the northeastern flank,” von Sandrart said.

Over the week, the 4th Inf. Div. Headquarters conducted a 250 km multi-vehicle convoy of its mobile command post from southern Poland to the MNC-NE headquarters to build readiness and validate the division’s ability to enhance interoperability with NATO partners and Allies.

“It is critical that we can fight alongside our NATO partners and Allies,” said Maj. David Zelaya, a division planner. “The MCP provides a mobile, adaptable, and integrated system that allows us not only

to communicate, but to integrate and collaborate with our partners here at MNC-NE.”

The Ivy Division’s unique physical layout plan of the MCP is built around functional cells that aid digital collaboration tools such as teleconference software. This encourages synchronized and fast communication between peer and subordinate units. These command-and-control structures help leverage newfound advantages in mobility and bottom-up refinement for enemy targeting and mission planning purposes.

“The 4th Infantry Division is the only U.S. division fielded with a mobile command post that allows the exchange of emails and information with our international partners,” said Lt. Col. Kenneth Roedl, the division’s communications chief. In a near-peer fight, a division needs to operate within periods of maritime and air superiority to ensure survivability when seizing key terrain.

The highly versatile and agile containerized command post segments allow for a division to quickly adapt to conditions on the battlefield. U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Monte Rone, the MNC-NE deputy chief of staff for operations stated that MNC-NE is going to be a warfighting corps, and he hopes this demonstration by the Ivy Division helps to continue to educate and train the NATO partners here in Szczecin German Army Brig. Gen. Kay Brinkman, the MNC-NE deputy chief of staff for planning, said this demonstration helps to build a collective defense environment within NATO and puts the pieces together to operate on the same lines of effort.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### AROUND THE CORPS

- **June is Pride Month**
- **May 29 - June 9:** Saber Guardian
- **June 4-14:** M3CPX Live ex
- **June 14:** Army Birthday
- **June 14:** Flag Day
- **June 18:** Father’s Day
- **June 19:** Juneteenth
- **July 4:** Independence Day
- **July 18:** Victory Honors DCG, DCG-M, DCG-I



Maj. David Armando Zelaya, assigned to 4th Infantry Division, connects an antenna to his division planning trailer to demonstrate the Ivy Divisions Mobile Command Post to NATO Allies and partners during Ivy Reach 28 Mar, 2023 in Europe. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Joshua Zayas)

The goal of this command post demonstration was to validate the Ivy Division’s ability to rapidly deploy to another location and establish communication with various NATO military organizations using the systems contained in the MCP; a task that is essential when fighting in a near-peer fight.

The military commanders at NATO’s MNC-NE HQ were able to see how the Ivy Division fights and will win future conflicts through the integration of the command post nodes and processes the MCP provides to an organization.

The future of the NATO battle groups and

the development of MNC-NE headquarters is based around the collective teamwork of each of the divisions located on NATO’s eastern flank.

“We have to come together to get to know each other and overcome our difference,” said von Sandrart. “Then, we are ready for the fight, and if we have to fight, we will win.”

The 4th Inf. Div. Headquarters will continue to train and validate the effectiveness of its command post system throughout its rotation in northeastern Europe, and is prepared to support any mission, anytime, anywhere, and under any conditions.

#### CAMP KOSCIUSZKO

- **Every Tues. 7:30 p.m.:** Watercolors Class, Bldg. 45, 1st floor, Rec Room or TV Room
- **Every Wed. 7 p.m.:** Bible study at building 45, 1st floor day room
- **Every Tues. & Thurs. 4 p.m.:** Volleyball

#### FORT KNOX

- **Every Tues. 3 p.m.:** ACFT at Battalion
- **Every Wed. 11:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.:** Mid-Week Bible study at Cavalry Chapel
- **June 02:** Payday Activities
- **June 12-15:** Army Week
- **June 16-19:** DONSA
- **June 20-23:** Recovery Ops
- **June 21:** HT/WT
- **June 24:** Start of Block Leave



# U.S. ARMY



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U.S. Army story by Spc. Devin Klecan  
V Corps Public Affairs

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This year marks 248 years of dedicated service to the United States. The U.S. Army was established on June 14, 1775. Every Soldier raised their right hand in support of American values, taking the step to be all they can be.

Since then, Soldiers, Army families, Army civilians, and retired patriots throughout our nation's history have borne true faith to the U.S. Constitution, the military service, and to their fellow Soldiers. The American Soldier has been a symbol of strength and security since the first generation of

patriots fought alongside Gen. George Washington during the Revolutionary War.

Multiple challenges and missions followed as our country, and the world, rapidly changed. Some notable conflicts included the battle of Gettysburg, the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Gulf War, War in Iraq and Afghanistan. As a new era for V Corps in Europe begins, U.S. Soldiers have always been all they could be.

It Will be Done!